

# FASCIST FORCES MOVE NATIONWIDE TO DESTROY BLACK PANTHER PARTY



Lonnie Mc Lucas

*When the oppressor makes a vicious attack against freedom fighters because of the way that such freedom fighters choose to go about their liberation, then we know we are moving in the direction of our liberation.*

— Huey P. Newton

The Black Panther party is under nationwide attack, in a concerted government effort to destroy gains the Panthers have made in black communities. In a June 5 press conference, Bobby Seale, Black Panther party chairman, said more than 40 Panther leaders have been arrested in the last two months. The Panthers have lost key people in Oregon, Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey and California. Seale termed these arrests "nothing more than Richard Nixon's operations."

Seale's figure of 40 did not include the indictment of 21 Panthers in New York City on April 3. They were charged with conspiring to bomb several department stores, blow up the Bronx Botanical Gardens, several police stations and a section of railroad tracks. This was the high point of a New York police vendetta which has brought 60 charges against Panthers in the last 10 months. There have been no convictions.

Thirteen of the Panther 21 are currently being held on \$100,000 bail each in seven New York prisons under maximum security. They are kept in lighted cells 24 hours a day, they are allowed no recreation or library privileges, and have not been permitted to meet as a group with their lawyers, Gerry Lefcourt and William Kunstler, to prepare their defense.

Under these conditions and with hostile nationwide publicity, the Panther 21 are guaranteed a prejudiced trial if it is held, as scheduled, on June 11. Defense lawyers have asked a federal court for a show-cause hearing which would force the state commissioner of corrections to release the prisoners, to lower their bail or to show that no injustice or violation of procedures has taken place which would deny them a fair trial.

There have been 10 hearings on bail reduction for the 21. Lonnie Epps, a minor, had his bail reduced to \$10,000 and was released. A "friendly" bailbondsman told one Panther, "I got a call from DA Phillips saying that I would lose my license to do business if I bailed out the Panthers."

The government has used the Panther 21 case to bust and harass Panther chapters all over the country. In New Haven, Conn. on May 22, eight members of a chapter just being formed were arrested and charged with kidnapping and murdering a New York Panther who, the police claim, was going to testify against the Panther 21.

## Raids a pretext

Panther offices in Chicago, Denver and Salt Lake City have been raided by police and FBI agents looking for New York and New Haven "fugitives." Local authorities have tried to use these raids to turn community opinion against the Panthers. The raids have also been pretexts for police confiscation of Panther organizing material, money and whatever else was portable.

In New Haven, Conn. police claim eight local Panthers kidnaped Alix Rackley from New York and murdered him in New Haven. Rackley, the cops say, was to testify against the Panther 21. The New York Panther office says Rackley was an excellent organizer who had close contact with the people of

**CONNECTICUT PANTHERS**



**PEGGY HUDGINS**



**ERICA HUGGINS**



**WARREN KIMBRO**



**MAUDE FRANCIS**



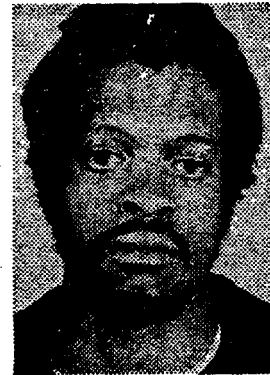
**JEANNIE WILSON**



**ROSE SMITH**



**FRANCIS CARTER**



**GEORGE EDWARDS**

# FASCISM

Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic (racist) and most imperialist elements of finance capital. It does not stand above both classes - the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, nor is it super-class government, nor government of the petty-bourgeoisie or the lumpen proletariat over finance capital. Fascism is the power of finance capital itself. FINANCE CAPITAL manifests itself not only as banks, trusts, and monopolys, but also as the human property of FINANCE CAPITAL - the avaricious businessman, the demagogic politician, and the racist pig cop. FASCISM is the organization of terrorist vengeance against the working class, and the revolutionary section of the peasantry and intelligentsia.

## CAPITALISM PLUS RACISM EQUALS FASCISM

Harlem. "Brother Alix was murdered by the pigs and now eight Panthers have been framed on trumped-up charges and are being held captive without bail."

On June 3, Chicago police and FBI agents with machine guns forced their way into Panther headquarters, claiming they were looking for "George Sams, a fugitive from New York." Eight Panthers were arrested, charged with harboring a federal fugitive and illegal possession of weapons.

Two days later in Denver, Rory Hithe, 18, and Landon Robert Williams, 25, were arrested for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. They were taken into custody at Panther headquarters and charged with being involved in the New Haven case. Bail for each was set at \$200,000.

Another Panther allegedly involved in the case was arrested in Salt Lake City June 6. Lonnie McLucas, 23, was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution and had bail set at \$100,000.

On the night of June 7 about 400 black people gathered in the street outside the Indianapolis Black Panther party office. Three cops in a patrol car tried to disperse the crowd. The cops claim they were attacked.

Police used the gathering as a pretext for entering the Panther office and busting everyone present. About half of the 30 persons arrested were Panthers. The incident happened on the second night of disturbances in Indianapolis, in which about 200 blacks have been arrested and six injured. One undercover agent was reportedly wounded by a sniper.

These raids on the Panthers are being used in New York to prejudice the public against the Panther 21. The press reports each bust with blaring headlines, although the Panthers here have never been found guilty on any charge. The press never mentions the Panther's 10-point political program or the fact that they are setting up free medical care services and free breakfasts for school children. We never hear that the Panthers say, "We want land, bread, housing, education, justice and peace;" instead we hear trumped-up charges, ridiculous stories and enormous bail figures.

Action is being taken to publicize the real nature of the nationwide move against the Panthers. A series of demonstrations have been held in New York, the most recent on June 3 at the federal courthouse, where 200 people showed up.

Two of the Panther 21—Joan Bird and Afeni Shakur—and two Panthers arrested on other charges are being held at the Women's House of Detention, 6th Avenue and West 10th Street. The Ad Hoc Committee to Support the Panther 21 has called for a demonstration there on June 14 at 1 p.m.

In New Haven, members of Yale SDS distributed a leaflet stating, "The charges against the New Haven Panthers, which have been trumped up by the government and police, are intended to intensify race hatred by playing upon the lies and myths instilled in white people by the educational system and the mass media."

The Panthers have called for a national conference of revolutionaries to form a United Front Against Fascism. The conference will be held July 18-21 in Oakland, Calif. The Panthers expect 5000 participants and the call to the conference stresses the need for "a front which has a common revolutionary ideology and political program which answers the basic desires and needs of all people in fascist, capitalistic, racist America. Primary objective will be *community control of police to end fascism.*"

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